

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 90-100-G - ORDER NO. 90-695 ✓  
JULY 19, 1990

IN RE: Application of Piedmont Natural       )  
Gas Company, Inc. for approval       )       ORDER  
of policy on extension of service.    )

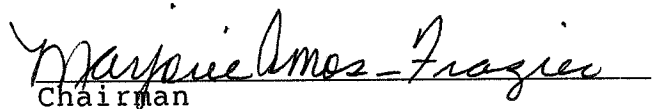
On February 7, 1990, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont) filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) a Petition requesting approval of a revised extension of service policy. On September 19, 1979, the Commission approved Piedmont's existing extension of service policy. The existing policy provides criteria for the construction of new gas mains to serve new customers, however, it does not provide criteria for the construction of service lines and other facilities to serve customers located on existing mains. The proposed policy provides criteria for the construction of service lines and other facilities to serve customers located on existing mains. More specifically, the new policy provides that the Company will extend the service line up to 100 feet from an existing main and will construct the other facilities required to serve a new customer provided the customer agrees to use gas for (1) at least

one gas appliance excluding gas grills, gas logs, log lighters, and unvented gas space heaters, or (2) at least two of the above mentioned gas appliances. Piedmont also proposes to clarify the language of its policy as it applies to extensions of service to customers who are not located on a main. However, these changes do not change Piedmont's existing policy with respect to these customers. Piedmont submits that the proposed policy is necessary to appropriately allocate capital which is available for the extension of service and to avoid rate increases to existing customers which occur when new customers are added who do not provide sufficient revenues to pay their cost of service. Piedmont subsequently filed an amended revised extension of service policy containing minor changes from the original filing.

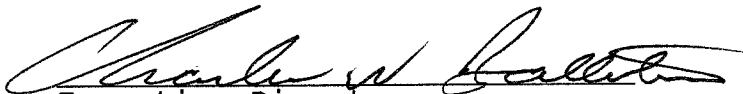
The Consumer Advocate filed a Petition to Intervene in this matter. The Consumer Advocate, on June 25, 1990, filed a letter with the Commission stating that it intervened in the above-referenced docket primarily to ensure that the Applicant's revised policy on extension of service would allow the greatest possible number of potential customers access to the Company's natural gas service. Upon receiving the Company's amended revised extension of service policy, the Consumer Advocate is satisfied that the above goal will be reached and therefore does not wish to participate in any hearing scheduled concerning this matter.

The Commission finds, based on the evidence in the record, that Piedmont's revised policy on extension of service is in the public interest and should be granted. The Commission also approves the Consumer Advocate's withdrawal of participation in this proceeding.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)